

PBS TeacherLine Peer Connection School and District Readiness Assessment

PBS TeacherLine Peer Connection is a powerful tool that combines the power of online communication and collaboration with trusted, valuable content to help schools and districts increase the power of their instructional coaching initiatives.

To help you to determine if PBS TeacherLine Peer Connection is the right tool for your school or district, we've prepared this self-evaluation questionnaire. Be sure to consult with various members of your school community, including IT and network technology specialists as well as administrators, district curriculum specialists, teachers, instructional coaches, instructional specialists, and/or other professional development providers to gather accurate responses to these questions.

Instructions: After discussing the questions below with members of your school community, indicate the appropriate answer and make any relevant notes in the chart below. You will notice questions about infrastructure, professional development, and technology literacy and communication at various levels. You may wish to ask school personnel to initial the appropriate squares to mark the answers they provide.

<u>Staffing and Professional Development Practices:</u>	Yes	Not currently, but easy change to implement	No. This change poses significant hurdle
1. Does the district or school support job-embedded professional development through allocation of instructional coaches, coordinators, and/or specialists at the building level?			
2. Has the district or school outlined clear professional development goals for reading and mathematics and/or technology?			
3. Does the school or district have personnel in place ("instructional coaches") whose specific role is to provide professional development support to teachers?			
4. Does the coach's job description include designing and conducting professional development activities in reading, mathematics and/or improving instructional practice?			
5. Are teachers expected and encouraged to participate in ongoing job-embedded professional development activities?			
6. Is time made available for the coach to both meet with teachers and provide classroom level support?			
7. Are classroom visits and observations part of teachers' professional development activities?			

Technology Infrastructure:	Yes	Not currently, but easy change to implement	No. This change poses significant hurdle
1. Do district- or school-level firewalls allow for Javascript and cookies enabled on the computers used by teachers?			
2. Do school and district personnel have access to computers equipped with Mac OSX 10.2+ or Windows 2000/XP or higher operating systems?			
3. Does the district or school support any of the following internet browsers: Internet Explorer 6 & 7 for PC, Safari 1.3 for Mac, or Firefox 1/5+ for either PC or Mac?			
4. Does the district or school support the following software applications (available for download from the Peer Connection Help section):			
Flash			
Shockwave Player			
Real Player 10.0			
Adobe Acrobat			
5. Do instructional coaches and teachers have ready access to computers in their primary office locations and classrooms?			
6. Does the school have technology support personnel available for training and problem solving support?			

<u>Technological literacy and communications practices:</u>	Yes	No
1. Are electronic communications tools such as e-mail, discussion boards, etc. frequently used by coaches, teachers, and other district or school staff?		
2. Are coaches and teachers comfortable using e-mail, opening attachments, and learning to use new tools such as discussion boards and online resource databases?		

Summary:

PBS TeacherLine Peer Connection is an online tool that is dependent on the technology infrastructure of the school and district. If you responded "yes" to all of the infrastructure questions, PBS TeacherLine Peer Connection will be accessible as a collaboration tool for your school or district. Other answers may indicate where you will need to make changes before you can use the tool. If you do not have the appropriate hardware, lack internet access, or cannot use certain software applications, we recommend that you not subscribe to Peer Connection until changes are implemented.

PBS TeacherLine Peer Connection is intended to be used in conjunction with face-to-face and classroom-based professional development activities facilitated by school-based professional development providers such as instructional coaches, teacher leaders, or instructional specialists. If you responded "yes" to all of the professional development questions above, PBS TeacherLine Peer Connection is ideally suited to your school and teachers. A significant number of "No" answers may mean there is a more limited application for PBS TeacherLine Peer Connection in your community, and you may benefit from additional onsite support for your implementation. If you responded "no" to five or more of the professional development questions above, we recommend that you do not subscribe to Peer Connection until changes are implemented.

The technology literacy and communication questions above are meant to help you uncover common obstacles in the use of online professional development tools in your school. Although they are not insurmountable, "no" response to any of the technology literacy and communication questions above could negatively impact the

implementation of Peer Connection in your school. Strategies for overcoming these obstacles should be discussed with your school and district personnel as you decide to proceed with your subscription to Peer Connection.